

**Consideration of the dedication of the Low Gap Nature Preserve, Monroe County**

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 320-acre property located twelve miles northeast of Bloomington in Monroe County. The Nature Preserve generally lies between the east fork of Honey Creek to the south and Orcutt Road to the north.

The Nature Preserve contains high quality examples of dry, dry-mesic, and mesic upland forest types. Low Gap contains one of the largest uninterrupted tracts of high-quality forest in Indiana's Brown County Hills Section of the Highland Rim Natural Region.

The State-endangered, Illinois blackberry (*Rubus centralis*) is historically known from this Nature Preserve. Additional plant species of special interest include goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), the sedge *Carex woodii*, and wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*).

A number of State special-status birds summer and presumably nest in the Low Gap area as well. The worm-eating warbler (*Helminthophila vermivora*), cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), the black and white warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), and the hooded warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) may be found in this area of the Brown County Hills. Raptors such as the state-listed red-shouldered and broad-winged hawks may be found at Low Gap as well.

Low Gap is important habitat for other state-rare animals including the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) and timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*).

The tract is owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources and under the administration of the Division of Forestry.

The Division of Nature Preserves and the Division of Forestry recommend dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

Attached is Nature Preserves exhibits A.

**Nature Preserve Exhibit A**  
**Low Gap Nature Preserve**

County: Monroe

USGS: Hindustan 7.5 Quad

Size: 320 Acres

Ownership: Indiana DNR

